

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biancucci in view of Andow et al. Also, claim 4 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biancucci and Andow et al. and further in view of Chapman. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

On page 5, paragraph 4 the Examiner's Office Action letter, the Examiner indicated that claims 2 and 6, although objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As the Examiner will note, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2, and correspondingly, claim 2 has been canceled from the present application. In addition, claim 7 has been added to the present application, newly added claim 7 reflecting a combination of original claim 1 and original claim 6. Correspondingly, claim 6 has been canceled from the present application.

Since the remaining claims, that is, claims 3-5 are dependent from claim 1 which has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2, it is now believed that claims 3-5 are also allowable.

Accordingly, in view of the amendment made to claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2 and in view of the addition of claim 7 to the present application which reflects a combination of original claim 1 and allowable claim 6, it is now believed that all the claims of the present application, that is, claims 1, 3-5 and 7 are allowable that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Thus, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

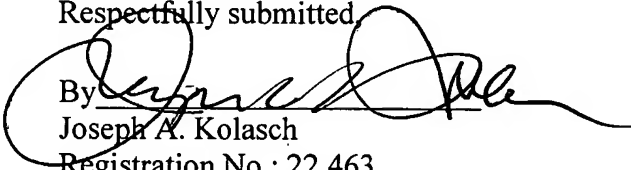
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch (Reg. No. 22,463) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 31, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Joseph A. Kolasch
Registration No.: 22,463
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant